

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-7 are pending in the application and have been examined. Claims 2, 5, and 8-24 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. The rejections are addressed below in the order raised by the Examiner.

Objection to the specification

The specification was previously objected to for referencing pending patent application USSN 09/361,652, and an updated status was requested. Applicants note that this application is still under examination and pending as of the date of this response. Applicants respectfully note that the objection is held in abeyance and/or will be withdrawn upon indication of allowability of the claims.

Status of the claims

Claim 1 was amended to recite a G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide comprising a polypeptide having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. This amendment adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can be found, e.g., in claim 8 as originally filed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 3-4 and 6-8 were rejected as allegedly lacking enablement for reciting a G-protein alpha subunit polypeptide comprising greater than 90% amino acid sequence identity to a polypeptide having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In order to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the claimed polypeptide comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding Applicant's response, or if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite consideration of this matter in any way, please call the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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